

Mr. Speaker, originally enacted in June 2004, the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act will help to expand and develop museum exhibits and educational programs honoring African Americans who have made significant contributions to the nation, but whose names, faces and achievements may not be well known to the average citizen.

This recognition can and will be accomplished and preserved with the expansion of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, a national treasure that is located in my district and hometown of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Dr. Elmer Martin and Dr. Joanne Martin, who started the museum with their own funds carrying a few wax figures and exhibit materials around the country in their car.

I am proud to report that the museum currently occupies part of a city block in East Baltimore and includes more than 200 wax figures. It is America's first wax museum of Black history. The museum now receives well over 200,000 visitors per year—more than half of these visitors are school children.

Several members of Congress and their staffs have visited the museum and relayed to me the awesome nature of their visit—how the figures and exhibits both moved and informed them, resulting in a truly enriching experience. Enactment of H.R. 3967 makes certain that the Museum can continue its mission to preserve a great part of our nation's history.

Lastly, this legislation authorizes assistance in establishing a Justice Learning Center as a component of the expanded Museum complex. The Justice Learning Center will include state-of-the-art facilities and resources to educate the public, especially at-risk youth, about the role of African Americans in our nation's judicial system. It will include a special focus on the civil rights movement, and on the role of African Americans as lawmakers, attorneys and in the Judiciary.

Federal dollars used will be spent efficiently and effectively. This is an issue that is critical to assess when we ask citizens for funding any program. This expansion will provide jobs, but it will also create a link for our children to a past that is so often forgotten.

Learning is enhanced when all of the senses can be engaged. This museum will bring the past to life, not just in the minds of the students, but in front of their eyes. Funding this educational opportunity is another critical step in creating an appreciation and understanding of history in our young people.

These gains are well worth the cost. This is simply a technical measure to reauthorize legislation that was enacted by Congress in 2004.

Again, I thank Chairmen RAHALL and GRIJALVA for their support, and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Nephrology Nurses As-

sociation as well as all those involved in the annual Kidney Disease Awareness Week, which will take place this year from August 9th through August 13th.

There are over 400,000 Americans who have irreversible kidney failure, and the only treatment for this disease is dialysis or kidney transplantation. However, transplants are limited due to the shortage of donors, and the majority of patients who suffer from this forgotten ailment must undergo regular dialysis treatments.

The leading causes of end-stage kidney disease (ESRD), a disease that 24,000 New Yorkers suffer from, are hypertension and diabetes. An additional 15,000 people in my State suffer from these two ailments and are at risk of ESRD. Despite these staggering numbers, debilitating kidney diseases are typically forgotten.

Our area nephrology nurses play a fundamental role in providing our sick with dialysis and related treatments in my community and across the entire country. I applaud them for their efforts to contribute to the overall health of our nation.

Madam Speaker, I thank the American Nephrology Nurses Association for their work to treat these diseases and urge every American to observe Kidney Disease Awareness Week this August.

#### HONORING THE OPERATION LOBSTER DINNER AND OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary event and the many people and organizations that have helped make it happen. This year in Groton, Connecticut, Grossman's Seafood will host its second annual "Operation Lobster Dinner" on July 18, 2010, for military personnel and their families.

This event provides local military families with 600 lobster dinners free of charge. These families will enjoy not only the dinner, but entertainment and a variety of activities for the children in attendance. The event is also a fundraiser for Work Vessels for Veterans, an effective organization that seeks to help returning servicemen and women start or restart their careers after fulfilling their military duties by donating boats and other vehicles to be used for those purposes.

"Operation Lobster Dinner" is a sterling example of the true sense of community in the Groton area for the military families who are based in our state. These brave Americans spend countless weeks and months away from their loved ones and put their lives on the line in defense of our freedom. We can never do enough to thank these true patriots, but "Operation Lobster Dinner" provides a unique opportunity for these folks to sit back and enjoy a delicious meal.

I also want to highlight the role of Captain Marc Denno and the Sub Base New London in contributing to this special dinner. I look forward to attending this event and joining with the sponsors and countless volunteers who help make it possible. I ask my colleagues to

join me in honoring Grossman's Seafood for their generosity.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

**HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Central America Caucus, I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador for their suffering as a result of the devastating effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. Beginning on May 29, 2010, Tropical Storm Agatha left a wake of death and destruction in its path through Central America, leaving more than 200 people dead and almost 100,000 people displaced into shelters by this devastation.

As a San Diegan, I am no stranger to how devastating natural disasters can be. In October 2007, 400,000 acres burned across our county while more than 1 million individuals were evacuated from their homes and more than 115 firefighters were injured while fighting to contain the fires. Any natural disaster tests the resolve of a community so our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by Tropical Storm Agatha.

In addition to affecting the long term functionality and prosperity of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, Tropical Storm Agatha has also severely affected the countries' critical and physical infrastructures, damaging buildings as well as water and sanitation systems, and agricultural stock.

It is a testament to the generosity of the American people as well as the innate goodness of human nature that so much aid from both American and international organizations have contributed to the relief efforts of Tropical Storm Agatha. I am proud to report that the United States has participated in providing relief supplies while governments and humanitarian organizations globally have contributed millions of dollars in relief funds.

I would like to reiterate the profound sympathy we have for those affected by Tropical Storm Agatha, as well as laud their perseverance and progress in recovery. I urge the United States to continue to assist their recovery efforts, both in the short as a well as the long term. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected, and for these reasons I ask my colleagues to support the underlying resolution.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD BANKS AND FOOD PANTRIES

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of food banks and food pantries in the 10th District of Virginia and their hard work and dedication to serving their communities.